

Bay Trail Rider

Winter 2004



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

Bay Trail Celebrates 15 Years!

Under a beautiful blue sky on the grounds of the Berkeley Marina Shorebird Nature Center, friends, board members, and staff of the Bay Trail celebrated a significant achievement. September 22, 2004 marked not only the most recent Board of Directors meeting, but also 15 years since ABAG adopted the Bay Trail Plan outlining the course for completion of the 500-mile alignment.

The 15th Anniversary calls for a gift of crystal, and we did our best to keep that tradition. As part of the celebration, the Bay Trail honored four of our agency champions with commemorative trophies. While they were not fashioned out of crystal, the translucent trophies captured the look of a shoreline. Awards were presented to the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and the Coastal Conservancy. Representatives from each agency were on hand to accept the awards and share a few words of endorsement for the Bay Trail. Longtime Bay Champion Sylvia McLaughlin was in attendance, and she expressed her support for the Bay Trail. Sylvia also took the first cut of the Bay Trail 15th Anniversary cake.

The celebration was followed by a guided walking tour of the Berkeley pedestrian overcrossing that spans Interstate 80 at University Avenue. Patrick Miller of 2M Consultants led the tour, highlighting recent work on the Bay Trail and ongoing work at the Eastshore State Park.

The Bay Trail would like to sincerely thank the staff of the Berkeley Marina Shorebird Nature Center for hosting our event. Its success would not have been possible without the Nature Center as a venue and the assistance of its staff.



ABOVE: Board member Steve McAdam accepts an award on behalf of BCDC.



LEFT: Patrick Miller of 2M Consultants, at left, explains recent Bay Trail improvements and construction at the Eastshore State Park.

Coastal Conservancy Approves \$3.8 Million for Bay Trail Projects

Since the late 1990's California has been extremely fortunate that so many state voters have supported and passed clean water, park and open space ballot measures, such as Propositions 12, 40 and – most recently – Proposition 50. These initiatives have made available unprecedented levels of funding for all sorts of projects and facilities, including numerous Bay Trail segments. Once again, the Bay Trail is fortunate to receive some of these bond funds, as the Coastal Conservancy Board approved \$3.8 million dollars to continue our efforts. Taking action at their September Board meeting, the Conservancy directors appropriated funds through Proposition 40 so that the Bay Trail can continue to provide grants for feasibility studies for new Bay Trail alignments as well as construction funds to help local municipalities complete trail projects. We'll be distributing additional information on these funds in the coming months.

BAY TRAIL STAFF CHANGES

THANK YOU JANET – After seven groundbreaking years as the Bay Trail Project Manager, **Janet McBride** has moved on. During her tenure as Bay Trail Manager, Janet led the way to develop over \$11,000,000 in state funding for new Bay Trail planning and construction projects. She promoted the most substantial newspaper and television coverage the Bay Trail has ever known, between the San Francisco Chronicle's week-long, front page series and the Channel 5 KPIX coverage in 2003. Janet also helped establish the Bay Trail's pioneering wildlife and public access study.

Janet received a personal letter from State Senator – and Bay Trail legislative champion – Liz Figueroa thanking her for her dedication to the Bay Trail. In her letter, Senator Figueroa noted Janet “provided leadership and vision in guiding the Bay Trail Board of Directors and ensured that it represents the broad and diverse recreational trail interests of the communities and organizations surrounding San Francisco Bay.” The Bay Trail staff could not agree more. Fortunately for us, Janet is just down the hall – she has now moved into her new role as ABAG's Planning Director.

In filling the role of Project Manager, the Bay Trail had to look no further than its own staff. After five years working to complete Bay Trail alignments, primarily in the North Bay, Bay Trail Planner **Laura Thompson** was promoted to Project Manager this past July. Laura brings to the position extensive experience working with local agencies on a wide variety of trail planning and construction projects. Laura says, “I welcome the opportunity to lead the Bay Trail toward completion and look forward to continuing the project momentum initiated under past project leadership.” Laura can be reached at 510/464-7935 or at laurat@abag.ca.gov.

The Bay Trail welcomes **Maureen Gaffney** to its staff. Maureen joins the Bay Trail Project from the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management in Boston, where she worked to complete that city's version of the Bay Trail — “Harborwalk.” Prior to her East Coast experience, Maureen worked as an environmental planner for the Port of Oakland. Outside of the office, she is an avid cyclist and accomplished equestrian. Maureen is the contact for projects in San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties. She also maintains an inventory of trail development status and gaps and coordinates efforts to secure non-motorized access on Bay area toll bridges. Maureen can be reached at 510/464-7909 or maureeng@abag.ca.gov.

After over two very full years of service, Bay Trail Planner **David Lipsetz** has moved on to a new position as a Senior Policy Analyst with the Oakland Housing Authority. During his time with the Bay Trail, David oversaw scores of planning and construction projects from the Carquinez Strait down to Fremont. Among David's significant contributions to the Bay Trail, he led the effort to secure four separate line-items in the upcoming federal reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act, or TEA-21, each worth approximately \$1,000,000. We wish to thank David for his contributions to the Bay Trail and best of luck in his new job.

This newsletter was made possible by **John Brosnan**, who served as Bay Trail Planner from July to November. We wish John well in his new role as the Project Manager of the Sears Point Habitat Restoration Project with the Sonoma Land Trust.

BAY TRAIL RECEIVES MTC AWARD

MORE GOOD NEWS! THE BAY TRAIL IS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2004 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION EXCELLENCE IN MOTION AWARDS. THESE AWARDS RECOGNIZE PEOPLE, AGENCIES AND PROJECTS THAT SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TO INNOVATIVE BAY AREA TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS. THE BAY TRAIL WAS HONORED WITH AN AWARD OF MERIT FOR REACHING THE CRUCIAL HALFWAY MARK TOWARD COMPLETION — OVER 250 OF THE EVENTUAL 500 MILES ARE COMPLETE. FIFTEEN WINNERS WERE SELECTED FROM 75 NOMINATIONS, AND RECIPIENTS WERE HONORED AT A CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 22 (AT THE SAME TIME AS OUR BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING). SCOTT HAGGERTY, ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESIDENT, AND ABAG ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAT JONES WERE ON HAND TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

BAY TRAIL BOARD ADDITIONS

AT THEIR SEPTEMBER 2004 MEETING, THE BAY TRAIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOMED TWO NEW MEMBERS, **SUSAN BARNES** AND **JIM FORAN**.

Susan Barnes is the principal with Barnes and Company, a public relations, marketing and fundraising firm in Cotati. Susan serves on a variety of Boards of Directors, is a member of several community organizations, and is a founding Board member of the Russian River Valley Foundation. Among many talents, Susan brings a fresh fundraising perspective to the Bay Trail Board.

Jim Foran is a former Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commissioner, and was recently elected to the Santa Clara County Open Space Commission. Jim has an extensive history as a self-starter, in the private sector, local government, and in community grassroots organizations. His innovative efforts to preserve open space include the founding of two unique grassroots organizations, Milpitas for Compatible Land Development and Save Our Milpitas Hills.

SIGNIFICANT BAY TRAIL RIBBON CUTTINGS IN 2004

In Santa Clara, the completion of Reach 1 of the **SAN TOMAS AQUINO/SARATOGA CREEK TRAIL** – almost 2 miles stretching from the Bay Trail to Agnew Road – was commemorated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in May. Planning for this connector trail has been in the works since the trail concept was initially developed in 1992, yet the trail has a ways to go before its entire 12 miles are complete. As it continues to develop, the trail will offer access to the Bay Trail for nearby local residents and office workers, as well as connections to the VTA Tasman Light Rail station, Amtrak's Capitol Corridor, and the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) trains. The project was funded in part through a Bay Trail grant.



ABOVE: Trail users take in the artwork along a new stretch of the San Tomas Aquino trail.

In October, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) celebrated the completion of a Bay Trail segment across **Damon Slough** in Oakland. Located within the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline, the new trail and retrofit of the former Damon Slough railroad bridge closes a long-standing gap and links 5 miles of continuous shoreline access between East Creek and Arrowhead Marsh. The ribbon-cutting ceremony featured speakers including Park District General Manager Pat O'Brien, Park District Director John Sutter and Coastal Conservancy Program Manager Amy Hutzler. The project was made possible through funding from the Park District, the Bay Trail Project and the Coastal Conservancy.



ABAG GOLF TOURNAMENT TURNS 15

This past August marked the **Association of Bay Area Government's 15th Annual Service Program and Port of Oakland Golf Tournament**. The tournament, co-sponsored by ABAG and the Port, took place at the Metropolitan Golf Course in Oakland, directly adjacent to a segment of Bay Trail currently under construction. While participants spent the gorgeous afternoon golfing, their bayside views included nearby, on-going Bay Trail projects in San Leandro and Oakland that will ultimately connect Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline with Arrowhead Marsh.



ABOVE: Several of ABAG's staff volunteered to make sure the day went smoothly.

The San Francisco Bay Trail was the beneficiary of this year's fund raiser, which raised over \$20,000. This is no small feat, and we owe a great deal of thanks to the Port of Oakland and our Golf Tournament Sponsors.

The Bay Trail wishes to express our gratitude to: the **Port of Oakland, AIG/Valic; Bank of the West; BNY Western Trust Company; Cosmos Claims Service; Driver Alliant Insurance; Hawkins, Delafield, and Wood; Ideal Drying; Jones Hall; Kelling, Northcross and Nobriga; Maze and Associates; Meyers Nave; Nolte Associates Inc.; Oracle; Pacific Financial Printing; A.M. Peche and Associates; Selman Breitman LLP; C.V. Starr and Company; Stone and Youngberg; Windemere; and, Xerox.**

LEFT: The ribbon cutting ceremony at Damon Slough was attended by, from left to right, Joan Suzio, MLK Jr. Shoreline park supervisor, EBRPD Director John Sutter, EBRPD Director Beverly Lane, Rails to Trails Conservancy California Advisory Board Chair Jennie Gerard, EBRPD President Douglas L. Siden, Carol Johnson EBRPD Community Relations Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy Project Manager Amy Hutzler, and EBRPD Volunteer Safety Patrol Member and Park Advisory Committee member Rich Guarienti.

Wildlife and Public Access Study Update

After a 4-year hiatus, on October 1st the Wildlife and Public Access Study team went back out into the field! Thanks to BCDC, the Bay Trail recently received a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Grant to continue the groundbreaking study for one additional quarter of field research at the 3 original study locations (Mill Valley, Redwood Shores, Mountain View). To address questions about the data already collected, two new features have been added to the protocols implemented during the first two years.

This time, in addition to collecting data on trail users and bird diversity, abundance, and behavior, the study will take a qualitative look at food supply. Several core samples will be taken from each quad once a month to provide basic data on the diversity and abundance of the benthic invertebrate species that are the food source for shorebirds and waterfowl. The study will begin to explore whether habitat quality is driving the presence or absence of species in the study locations.

In addition, the team will evaluate whether there is significant impact on shorebirds and waterfowl in the quads when two observers are present as compared to when no observers are present. Our most expert birders will observe the trail and control quads at Bothin Marsh in Mill Valley from the opposite side of Richardson Bay 16 times during the course of the quarter. They will collect data during 8 observation periods when observers are present, and then again on the following days when there are no observers present.

Principal investigators Dr. Lynne Trulio and Jana Sokale have completed the analysis of the mountain of data collected during the first 24 months of observations and expect to have a draft report available for review late in 2004, with final reporting in peer reviewed journals expected early next year. More information about the Wildlife and Public Access Study is available at www.baytrail.abag.ca.gov/wildlifestudy.htm.

Neighborhood Parks Council "Imagine the Way" Event

On September 11th of this year, the San Francisco Neighborhood Parks Council sponsored the "Imagine the Way" event at India Basin and Heron's Head Parks in the Hunter's Point-Bayview neighborhood. The Parks Council has been focusing attention on the completion of the Bay Trail along the San Francisco waterfront from SBC Park to the southern border of the City (the "Blue Greenway"), an area currently in need of improved recreational amenities. State Assemblymember Mark Leno and San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell were in attendance at this successful event, and KPIX/KCBS carried the story on their website. Future plans for the area consist of habitat restoration at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area including a substantial Bay Trail segment, redevelopment of the Hunter's Point Shipyard, also with important Bay Trail segments, in addition to many other exciting projects. The Parks Council recently received a grant from the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program to perform an important data gathering and land use study which will inform the planning effort in this area.



ABOVE: San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, right, and Assemblyman Mark Leno were on hand to share their support for the Blue Greenway and the Bay Trail.

Along The Bay Trail

NAPA

The County of Napa is close to completing construction of bike lanes along **Cuttings Wharf Road**, a spur segment of the Bay Trail alignment that leads to Cuttings Wharf along the Napa River. A separately funded project will construct 1.6 miles of bike lanes connecting State Highway 121 to Cuttings Wharf Road at Las Amigas Road, where the two bike lane projects will converge. While these projects will not construct the bike lanes the entire length of the road to Cuttings Wharf at this time, the remaining section will be a priority for funding in the near future.

MARIN

The City of Novato is nearing completion of a 1.5 mile segment of the **Novato Hamilton Bay Trail** bordering the Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project, made possible through a Bay Trail grant. The new Bay Trail spur will offer expansive views of the wetland restoration project from the top of Reservoir Hill. Ultimately, the spur will connect with the Bay Trail spine along the edge of the restoration area.

In 2002, the Bay Trail and Coastal Conservancy awarded \$60,000 to the town of **Corte Madera to conduct a feasibility study** to identify a Bay Trail alignment between the Town of Tiburon and the City of Larkspur, and to identify the improvements necessary to make such an alignment functional. The study, completed in June 2004, presents several options for an improved Bay Trail alignment along this popular bicycle route.

SAN MATEO

The City of Menlo Park's **Bayfront-to-Ravenswood Bay Trail** Feasibility Study is almost complete. The plan was recently presented to the City Councils of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park for their consideration, and members of the public have commented on which of four alignments they'd like to see. The preferred alignment will be identified before the end of the year, bringing the Bay Trail one major step closer to closing a critical gap between the Dumbarton Bridge and Silicon Valley.

CONTRA COSTA

The **Wildcat Creek to San Pablo Creek Trail Study** was completed by the East Bay Regional Park District through a Bay Trail grant. The plan identifies a new Bay Trail alignment along the edge of the West County Wastewater District in Richmond connecting the existing Wildcat Creek spur to a future loop trail at the West County Landfill on the San Pablo Bay shoreline. Completion of this trail will provide a byside alternative to the Richmond Parkway trail.

ALAMEDA

Two significant feasibility studies were recently completed along the East Bay shoreline: the **Oakland Waterfront Trail Feasibility Study** and the **Bay Trail Extension to the Berkeley Marina**.

In Oakland, the plan for a new 6-mile trail alignment along the Inner Harbor was funded by the Bay Trail Project, Coastal Conservancy, Port of Oakland and the City of Oakland. It provides a grand vision for transforming the City's industrial waterfront into a recreational corridor. The Waterfront Feasibility Study was awarded the Waterfront Center's "Excellence on the Waterfront" planning award, announced at the Center's annual conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In Berkeley, new trail design and improved connections from the existing I-80 bicycle pedestrian overcrossing and the Bay Trail spine are identified in the Marina extension plan. Funded in part by the Coastal Conservancy and the Bay Trail Project, the City plans to implement these improvements and provide continuous waterfront access along the Marina.



ABOVE: Bay Trail Board members explored Berkeley's Bay Trail upgrades at their September meeting.

REGIONAL

The Bay Trail has continued constant involvement with the **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project**. Bay Trail staff have attended Stakeholder Forum and Public Access and Flood Management Working Groups, and provided comments on the project's Opportunities and Constraints analysis and Alternatives Development Framework. These documents have fed into the project's first draft of potential alternatives, as seen in the September and October Initial Concepts meetings. These meetings featured maps of potential Bay Trail configurations in the project areas. Bay Trail staff will continue to maintain a close working relationship with the project to ensure the Trail's incorporation into this continually developing project.

New Funding Source for Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

In December 2003, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) created a \$200 million **Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Program (RBPP)** to fund the construction of the Regional Bicycle Network and significant regional pedestrian projects. The RBPP provides funding for projects that are developed through an inclusive community planning effort and have widespread public support. In September, MTC issued a "call for projects" under this program. Eligible bicycle projects are either those identified as part of the Regional Bicycle Network or those that improve access to schools and transit. Eligible pedestrian projects are those that create or improve access to schools, transit or regional activity centers. Since the Bay Trail encompasses a significant portion of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Network, Bay Trail staff will work with local communities and their Congestion Management Agencies to support applications for this funding.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2004 DONORS!

Trail Blazers - \$250 and up - Jerry Barker, Timothy Bell, Jabby Lowe

Trail Builders - \$100 to \$249

Bill and Bonnie Bliss, Margaret Deane, East Bay Bicycle Coalition, Kelly Gibson, Susan Ginsky, Kurt Helmgren, Jean Starkweather, Don Weden

Trail Champions - \$50 to \$99

Janet Ahlstrom, James Anderson, Claudia Avedikian, Edward Bennett, Nancy Benson, Merylee and Edward Bingham, Bruno Davis, Kathleen Domini Tappero, Louise and William Freedman, Myla Lyons, John McCabe, Sylvia McLaughlin, Rosemarie Nial, Pamela Riebe, Jim and Martha Sanford, Karen Sheldon, Revan Tranter, Ann and Herman Trutner

Trail Friends – up to \$49

Denny Alff, Bill DeVore, Diana Dong, Gus Dorough, Ellen Duvivier Dunn, Richard Fitzgerald, Ellen Fletcher, Howard Friesen, Dorothy Gibson, Anthony Hsieh, Minane and Michael Jameson, Norman LaForce, Sylvia McLaughlin, Edgar Mendelsohn, Toni Mester, Jim Mullarkey, Kristina Newell, Rob Powell, Dorothy Quate, Aletha Silcox, Jean Siri, Linda Wolfe

S.F. BAY TRAIL PROJECT

510/464-7935
Baytrail@abag.ca.gov
www.baytrail.org

STAFF CONTACTS

Laura Thompson, Project Manager
510/464-7935

Maureen Gaffney, Bay Trail Planner
510/464-7909

Ceil Scandone, Wildlife & Public Access
Study Coordinator
510/464-7961

JoAnna Bullock, Grants Administrator
510/464-7968

BAY TRAIL RIDER, the newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, highlights the progress and development of the Bay Trail. For more information about the Bay Trail, visit our website or call, write or e-mail us.

.....
YOU CAN NOW ACCESS THE BAY TRAIL WEBSITE VIA WWW.BAYTRAIL.ORG.



San Francisco Bay Trail Project
P.O. Box 2050
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

Nonprofit org.
U.S. postage paid

Oakland, CA
Permit no. 973

